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EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 33rd, 42nd, 43rd and 48th meetings, on 16 and 29 November and 3 and 13 December. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.33, 42, 43 and 48). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).

3. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan (A/48/323 and Add.1).

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 16 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/48/SR.33).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/48/L.48

5. At the 43rd meeting, on 3 December, the representative of Turkey introduced a draft resolution entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace,

normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan (A/C.2/48/L.48), on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Yemen, subsequently joined by Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Thailand.

6. At the 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 4 (a), the word "facilitate" was replaced with the words "assist Afghanistan in facilitating";

(b) In operative paragraph 4 (c), the words "the convening of" were replaced with the words "the possibility of convening".

7. The Secretary of the Committee read out a statement pertaining to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.48, as orally revised.

8. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Afghanistan made a statement (see A/C.2/47/SR.48).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.48, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 11).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America (see A/C.2/47/SR.48).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling resolution 47/119 of 18 December 1992 on emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Noting that the establishment of the Islamic State in Afghanistan provides a new opportunity for the reconstruction of the country,

Wishing the people of Afghanistan peace and prosperity,

Deeply concerned about the massive destruction of property and the serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure of Afghanistan caused by fourteen years of war,

Stressing the importance of the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan for the prosperity of its people, who have suffered many hardships during fourteen years of war and devastation and have lost the chance for development throughout the conflict,

Aware that Afghanistan continues to suffer from an extremely critical economic situation as a land-locked, least developed and war-stricken country,

Affirming the urgent need to initiate international action to assist Afghanistan in restoring basic services and in rebuilding the country,

Expressing its hope that the international community will respond adequately to the Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan, launched by the Secretary-General for the period October 1993 to March 1994,

Thanking all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular the Governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and recognizing the need for international assistance for the repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between the revitalization of the economy and the strengthening of Afghanistan's ability to take effective steps towards those objectives and the ensuring of peace and normalcy in the country,

Stressing the important role that the United Nations can play in the further consolidation of peace and stability by assisting the process of national rapprochement, reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan,

Expressing its appreciation to the States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively and continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan and to the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative for mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the Action Plan for immediate rehabilitation, dated June 1993, prepared by the United Nations Development Programme as lead agency, in

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1/ A/48/323 and Add.1.

cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, as a first step towards reconstruction and a framework for the mobilization of international assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country,

Appreciating the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for its continued support for the repatriation of Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries,

1. Encourages the Government of Afghanistan to take immediate steps to consolidate further the political process through national rapprochement, thus contributing to the creation of a sound political situation and good security, which would allow the holding of general, free and fair elections in the country, observed by the United Nations, as soon as circumstances permit;

2. Welcomes with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the international community to the acute problems of Afghanistan;

3. Urgently appeals to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the international financial and development institutions, to provide, on a priority basis, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the restoration of basic services and the reconstruction of Afghanistan and for the resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, having in mind the availability of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund referred to in paragraph 6 below;

4. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To dispatch as soon as possible a United Nations special mission to Afghanistan to canvass a broad spectrum of Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction, and report to the Secretary-General their findings, conclusions and recommendations for appropriate action;

(b) To develop the Action Plan for immediate rehabilitation, prepared by the United Nations Development Programme, into a full-scale strategy for rehabilitation and reconstruction, based on an in-country assessment by a team of experts of the war damage and destruction;

(c) To initiate, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations special mission to Afghanistan, a plan for mobilizing financial, technical and material assistance, including the possibility of convening a conference of donor States and international financial institutions;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the overall situation in Afghanistan and make available his good offices as required and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

6. Appeals to all Member States, in particular donor countries, to provide emergency financial assistance to the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund

established in August 1988 and to consolidated appeals by the Secretary-General for emergency humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan;

7. Invites the international financial institutions, specialized agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, where appropriate, to bring the special needs of Afghanistan to the attention of their respective governing bodies for their consideration and to report on the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".